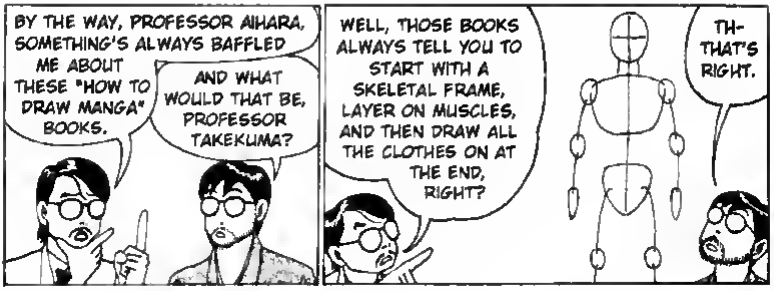
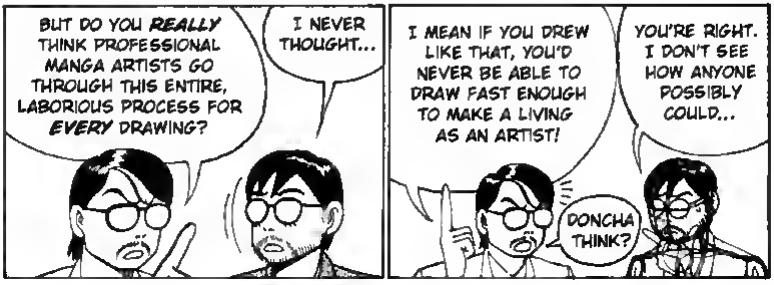
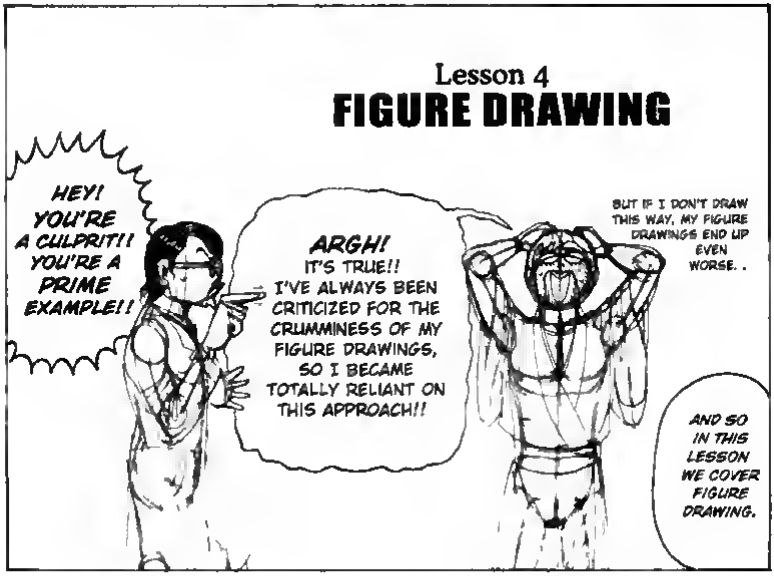

BY THE WAY, PROFESSOR AIHARA, SOMETHING'S ALWAYS BAFFLED ME ABOUT THESE "HOW TO DRAW MANGA" BOOKS.
AND WHAT WOULD THAT BE, PROFESSOR TAKEKUMA?
WELL, THOSE BOOKS ALWAYS TELL YOU TO START WITH A SKELETAL FRAME, LAYER ON MUSCLES, AND THEN DRAW ALL THE CLOTHES ON AT THE END, RIGHT?
TH-THAT'S RIGHT.


BUT DO YOU *REALLY* THINK PROFESSIONAL MANGA ARTISTS GO THROUGH THIS ENTIRE, LABORIOUS PROCESS FOR *EVERY* DRAWING?
I NEVER THOUGHT...
I MEAN IF YOU DREW LIKE THAT, YOU'D NEVER BE ABLE TO DRAW FAST ENOUGH TO MAKE A LIVING AS AN ARTIST!
YOU'RE RIGHT. I DON'T SEE HOW ANYONE POSSIBLY COULD...
DONCHA THINK?


Lesson 4
FIGURE DRAWING
HEY! YOU'RE A CULPRIT!! YOU'RE A PRIME EXAMPLE!!
ARGH! IT'S TRUE!! I'VE ALWAYS BEEN CRITICIZED FOR THE CRUMMINESS OF MY FIGURE DRAWINGS, SO I BECAME TOTALLY RELIANT ON THIS APPROACH!!
BUT IF I DON'T DRAW THIS WAY, MY FIGURE DRAWINGS END UP EVEN WORSE. .
AND SO IN THIS LESSON WE COVER FIGURE DRAWING.

AIHARA, IT'S CLEAR YOU CAN DRAW FACES, BUT WHEN IT COMES TO BODIES YOU'RE PATHETIC.
THIS TOOK YOU FIVE HOURS TO DRAW, HUH?
Ehh
Uhhh
AARGH! I ADMIT IT!!
I CAN DRAW FACES BUT I CAN'T DRAW BODIES AT ALL!!
FWUD
FWUD
FWUD
IT'S HOPELESS!! I'LL NEVER BE A MANGA ARTIST! FORGET OUR DREAMS!
CALM DOWN, AIHARA! YOU DON'T HAVE KNOW HOW TO DRAW BODIES!!
YOU'RE JUST SAYING THAT TO MAKE ME FEEL BETTER
HOW CAN I BE A MANGA ARTIST WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO DRAW A FIGURE TO SAVE MY LIFE?
YOU CAN.
I KNOW OF AN INCREDIBLY SUCCESSFUL MANGA ARTIST WHO KNOWS HOW TO DRAW NOTHING BUT CLOSEUPS OF LARGE BREASTS!! THIS HERE MONKEY MANGA IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE!!

B-BUT I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF I CAN DRAW AT ALL...!
LOOK, AIHARA! IF YOU SPEND FIVE OR SIX HOURS ON JUST ONE FIGURE, YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO MASS PRODUCE YOUR WORK.
ALL YOU NEED TO DRAW GOOD FIGURES...
SHELF
THUMP
...IS TO LOOK AND DRAW!! LOOK AND DRAW!! SEE!?
HUH?
JUMP COMICS SELECTION
ASTRO LEAGUE
Pitcher Killer!

MANGA IN A NUTSHELL

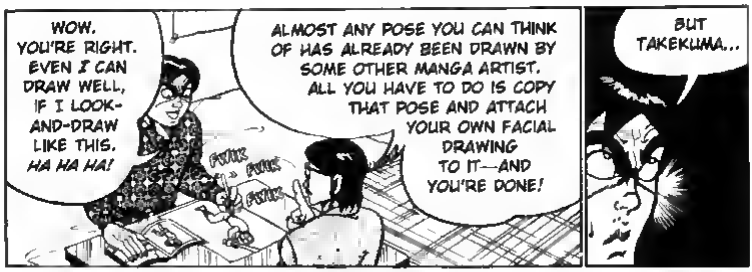
Stealing Is the Essence of Manga!

The famous observation, "Manga is a language of symbols," was made by the late Osamu Tezuka. This statement truly captures the essence of manga.

Before being a "drawing," a manga image is a "symbol." And because symbols enable everyone to mutually understand and create meaning, the techniques involved in manga must be accessible to everyone.

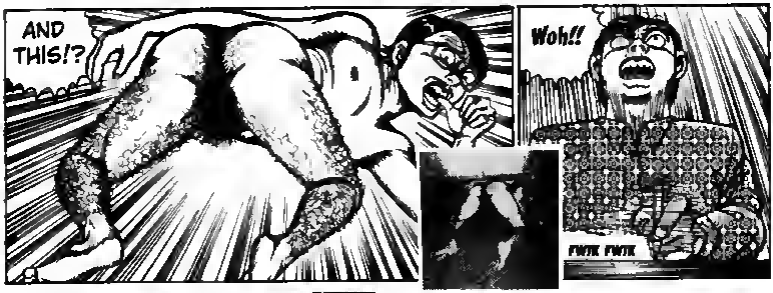
For example, when ***Gakideka*** became a blockbuster hit, tons of Yamagami imitators suddenly appeared. Lately we've been seeing a lot of work that clearly rips off Katsuhiro Otomo. (We've even heard of one guy who created an "Akira Pose Collection" by actually *Xeroxing* drawings from ***Akira***!)

It might be easy to scoff at this kind of stuff, but the "sharing" of technique is necessary for manga. Manga flourished thanks to the fact that no one got upset over incremental imitations. The reason why "ripping off" never became controversial was because virtually *all* postwar narrative manga—technique included—were one way or another rip-offs of Osamu Tezuka.


WOW. YOU'RE RIGHT. EVEN I CAN DRAW WELL, IF I LOOK-AND-DRAW LIKE THIS. HA HA HA!
ALMOST ANY POSE YOU CAN THINK OF HAS ALREADY BEEN DRAWN BY SOME OTHER MANGA ARTIST. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS COPY THAT POSE AND ATTACH YOUR OWN FACIAL DRAWING TO IT—AND YOU'RE DONE!
FWIK FWIK FWIK
BUT TAKEKUMA...

We the editors understand that the above photographs may come across as shocking to some; however Prof. Takekuma insisted that it was vital to the integrity of this month's installment that he personally pose in such a manner. We apologize for any offense taken. —*The Editors*

OR... THIS!?
WOW!
FWIK FWIK


AND THIS!?
Woh!!
FWIK FWIK

OR THIS!?
WOW!
ANOTHER STEP CLOSER TO ACHIEVING OUR DREAM!!
TO BE CONTINUED

Q: What should I do about poses that are impossible for humans? I understand how you take care of a difficult pose by taking a picture of your friend doing it. But when I requested my friend to "make your eyes jump out like springs about 50 cm in length, break your back by twisting your neck around 180 degrees, and suck your penis sticking out through your thighs," he refused. I looked for resource photographs at the Library of Congress, but I couldn't find any that suited my purpose. And because I'm by nature a pretty stiff person, I couldn't do the pose myself. What should I do?

Signed,
P-Taro, Tokyo

A: You're in a difficult situation. But when you draw manga, these kinds of things happen all the time. Unless you learn how to deal with them, you'll never become a pro.

Those who are pros already can have their editors assume the pose. (If you're really close to the deadline, they'll pretty much do anything for you.) But for a beginner like yourself, that's not possible. You have to do it yourself.

First of all, how can you make excuses about being stiff? With that kind of attitude, you'll never beat your rivals. "I can do it too!" Mr. Kiyota even said so.

• Making Your Body More Flexible

There are gymnasts and circus performers who say vinegar softens up their muscles. But leaving aside the psychological effects, I must warn you, this is only a myth, with no scientific evidence to support it! You could actually end up causing more damage to yourself by drinking vinegar, so don't do it!

What can you do then? Can you alter the shape of your body without relying on drugs? The answer is, yes, you can.

Have you ever seen a "cube watermelon"?

As you must know, watermelons are usually round, but if you place a box over a growing watermelon, and replace it with a bigger box as it gets bigger, then you'll end up with a cube-shaped watermelon. You can do the same with humans. The men of the South American Suya tribe wear round plates on their lips to make their mouths more masculine. Some African tribes have their kids wear rings around their neck, so that when they grow up, they have long, beautiful necks.

The human body is much more flexible than you imagine! According to Indian yoga masters, there are over 400 ways to bend a single leg. Top circus performers can bend their backs so far they can make their heads touch their butts. So no pose is impossible for you.

Why don't you first start by practicing the limbo dance. Lower the bar every day by a few millimeters. Your body will adjust accordingly. Don't push yourself too hard, though. The most important thing is your persistence. In ten years' time, you will no doubt be able to assume any pose you want.

• Important Image Training

Image training is even more important than physical training. When track runners are training, they always imagine the sight of themselves crossing the tape at the finish line. You too should always keep in mind an image of yourself accomplishing your goal. A mantra-like chant like "I am an octopus!! I am going to become an octopus!!" might prove effective.

Now then!! After years of hard work, you've finally managed to bend your back to make your head touch your butt. Now all you need to do is dislocate your back to twist your body back 180 degrees, hit yourself hard on the back of your head to make your eyes pop out, suck your penis, set up the self-timed camera, and you're set to go!! Once you've gotten this far, you can assume any position. You'll no doubt be ready to go pro!!

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